

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a map that associates a graphics element of a graphical user interface of a software application with an executable feature of the software application, the method comprising:

retrieving information descriptive of the graphics element rendered during execution of the software application, the information including an executable feature associated with the graphics element;

storing an association between the executable feature and the graphics element in a map data structure, wherein the map data structure is accessible by an application driver for driving the software application, and wherein the map data structure further stores information on the graphical element prior to and after a state transition occurs in the software application; and  
executing an executable feature stored in association with a graphics element.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, in response to the executable feature exposing a second graphics element:

retrieving information descriptive of the second graphics element, the information including a second executable feature associated with the second graphics element;

storing the second executable feature in association with the second graphics element; and

executing the second executable feature stored in association with the second graphics element.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrieving comprises capturing information pertaining to the graphics element.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing includes updating an indicator associated with the graphics element when an executable feature stored in association with the graphics element is executed.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing includes organizing the retrieved information such that an executable feature stored in association with the graphics element can

be interpreted by a computer-executable application capable of accessing the retrieved information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing includes organizing the retrieved information such that an executable feature stored in association with the graphics element can be interpreted by a user capable of accessing the retrieved information from memory.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the executing comprises selecting from the stored information an executable feature stored in association with a graphics element.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the selecting comprises selecting an executable feature not previously executed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the selecting comprises reviewing an indicator to select an executable feature not previously executed.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the selecting comprises selecting executable features in a depth-first mode of operation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the selecting comprises selecting executable features in a breadth-first mode of operation.

12. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a map that associates a graphics element of a graphical user interface of a software application with an executable feature of the software application, the system comprising:

a capture agent for retrieving information descriptive of the graphics element rendered during execution of the software application, the information including an executable feature associated with the graphics element;

an application driver for storing an association between the executable feature and the graphics element in a map data structure, wherein the map data structure further stores

information on the graphical element prior to and after a state transition occurs in the software application; and

    a command agent for executing an executable feature stored in association with a graphics element.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the capture agent is invoked by the application driver.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the capture agent submits the retrieved information to the application driver.

16. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the application driver selects a graphics element to be executed from the stored information.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the application driver selects an executable feature not previously executed.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein the application driver reviews an indicator to select an executable feature not previously executed.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the application driver selects executable features in a depth-first mode of operation.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the application driver selects executable features in a breadth-first mode of operation.

21. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the application driver updates an indicator associated with the graphics element when an executable feature stored in association with the graphics element is executed.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for systematically invoking an executable feature of a software application having a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface displaying a graphics element associated with the executable feature, the method comprising:

retrieving information descriptive of the graphics element rendered during execution of the software application, the information including an executable feature associated with the graphics element;

storing an association between the executable feature and the graphics element in a map data structure, wherein the map data structure is accessible by an application driver for driving the software application, and wherein the map data structure further stores information on the graphical element prior to and after a state transition occurs in the software application;

selecting from the stored information an executable feature not previously executed; and executing the selected executable feature.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising, in response to the executable feature exposing a second graphics element:

retrieving information descriptive of the second graphics element, the information including a second executable feature associated with the second graphics element;

storing the second executable feature in association with the second graphics element; and

selecting from the stored information a second executable feature not previously executed; and

executing the selected second executable feature.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the retrieving comprises capturing information pertaining to the graphics element.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the storing comprises updating an indicator associated with the graphics element when an executable feature stored in association with the graphics element is executed.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the selecting comprises reviewing an indicator to determine an executable feature not previously executed.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the selecting comprises selecting executable features in a depth-first mode of operation.

28. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the selecting comprises selecting executable features in a breadth-first mode of operation.

29. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 22.

30. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graphical user interface is generated by a software application included in the set: an application program, an operating system, and a program module.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a map that associates a graphics element of a graphical user interface with an executable feature, the method comprising:

retrieving information descriptive of the graphics element rendered during execution of the software application, the information including an executable feature associated with the graphics element;

storing an association between the executable feature and the graphics element in a map data structure, wherein the map data structure is accessible by an application driver for driving the software application, and wherein the map data structure further stores information on the graphical element prior to and after a state transition occurs in the software application; and

executing an executable feature stored in association with a graphics element.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising, in response to the executable feature exposing a second graphics element:

retrieving information descriptive of the second graphics element, the information including a second executable feature associated with the second graphics element;

storing the second executable feature in association with the second graphics element; and

executing the second executable feature stored in association with the second graphics element.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 31.